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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1776
E.O. 12065: GDS 6/29/87 (RODINE, BARBARA K.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, IZ, US
SUBJ: SADDAM HUSSEIN'S SPEECH BEFORE THE IRAQI CABINET
1. (LOU) SUMMARY: SADDAM HUSSEIN'S SPEECH BEFORE THE IRAQI CABINET JUNE 23 WAS THE FIRST MAJOR STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT SINCE THE ISRAELI HOMEING RAID ON JUNE 7. THE REMARKS, WHICH WERE BROADCAST ON IRAQI RADIO AS WELL AS PRINTED IN FULL IN THE LOCAL PRESS, SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR FACILITY AS AN INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE OF ISRAELI FEARS OF ARAB ADVANCEMENT AND REITERATED THE CHARGE THAT IT WAS DONE IN COLLUSION WITH IRAN. LITTLE MENTION WAS MADE OF THE UNITED STATES. END SUMMARY.
2. (LOU) IN HIS REMARKS BEFORE THE IRAQI CABINET ON JUNE 23, PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN STATED THAT IRAQ WAS AWARE OF THE THREAT TO ITS INDUSTRIAL AND SCIENTIFIC INFRASTRUCTURE AS EARLY AS 1979. SADDAM ALSO STRESSED BEGIN'S FEAR OF
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A TECHNOLOGICALLY DEVELOPED IRAQ AS THE REASON FOR THE RAID AND POSTULATED A COMMONALITY OF PURPOSE BETWEEN TEL AVIV AND TEHRAN IN OPPOSING ARAB ADVANCEMENT, ALBEIT FOR VERY DIFFERENT REASONS. HAVING REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THE IRAQ-IRAN WAR, STATING THAT IRAQ'S ACTIONS WERE IN RESPONSE TO REPEATED IRANIAN PROVOCATIONS, AND REVIEWING ISRAELI STATEMENTS ON THE TIME INVOLVED IN PREPARING FOR THE AIR STRIKE HE CONCLUDES THAT THERE WAS ACTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND IRAN IN STARTING THE WAR WITH IRAQ AND IN BOMBING THE NUCLEAR FACILITY.
3. (LOU) ON ARAB ACQUISITION OF THE BOMB, SADDAM SEES IT AS A MEANS OF NEGATING POSSIBLE ISRAELI NUCLEAR BLACK-MAIL. HE COMPARED THIS TO THE NUCLEAR BALANCE EXISTING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION; NEITHER
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SIDE INTENDS TO USE THEM (ATOMIC BOMB)... BUT (THEY) ARE TRYING TO DEVELOP THEIR WEAPONS TO PREVENT WAR.

4. (U) HIS ONLY CLEAR REFERENCE TO THE UNITED STATES WAS THAT "IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT SOME STATES WHICH ADVOCATE RESPONSIBILITY IN SAFEGUARDING WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY ARE TRYING TO LESSEN WORLD REACTION TOWARD THE ZIONIST AGGRESSION OR PERHAPS PROVIDE THE LEGITIMATE MOTIVATION AS MENTIONED BY SOME AMERICAN OFFICIALS, REGARDLESS OF IRAQ'S INTENTIONS OF ITS PRESENT OR FUTURE POTENTIAL".

5. (U) THE FOLLOWING ARE TAKEN FROM THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER TRANSLATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH:

-- THIS IS NOT BECAUSE THEY (ISRAELIS) FEAR THE IRAQI NUCLEAR BOMB, AS THE HEAD OF THE GANG IN TEL AVIV SAYS, BUT IT IS BECAUSE THEY FEAR THE BALANCED AND COHESIVE SCIENTIFIC, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS SERIOUSLY MOVING

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TOWARD ITS OBJECTIVES IN BUILDING BASICALLY A NEW IRAQ... THE ZIONISTS AND ITS ALLIES ARE AFRAID OF TWO BASIC FACTORS: THIS IS MAN IN HIS EDUCATIONAL BUILD-UP AND MAN IN HIS SCIENTIFIC BUILD-UP WITHIN A CLEAR POLITICAL FRAMEWORK WHICH MAKES THE IRAQI PROUD OF HIS NATIONAL EXPERIMENT AND DEFENDS IT. DEVELOPS IT AND PLACES IT IN THE SERVICE OF THE ARAB NATION AS A WHOLE... THIS IS WHAT MADE BEGIN SLEEPLESS FOR TWO YEARS, AS HE SAID... IT IS NOT THAT IRAQ MIGHT MANUFACTURE A NUCLEAR BOMB... IT) WAS SCIENTIFIC, HUMANITARIAN, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

-- OTHER PARTIES KNEW OF THE STRIKE WHETHER BEFORE OR DURING... THERE MUST HAVE BEEN ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL PARTY COOPERATING WITH THEM IN THE STRIKE AND GATHERING INFORMATION INCLUDING PROVIDING THEM WITH INFORMATION ON THE DURATION OF THE IRAQ-IRAN WAR. THIS INTERNATIONAL PARTY IS NOT US... CONSEQUENTLY, IT MUST BE IRAN.

-- THROUGH THIS AND IN ADDITION TO OTHER FACTORS YOU WILL REALIZE WHY THE WAR BROKE OUT. IT DID NOT BREAK OUT TO DIRECT A STRIKE AGAINST THE IRAQI NUCLEAR REACTOR ONLY, BUT TO STOP IRAQ'S REVIVAL. THEN YOU WILL KNOW WHY THE WAR WILL CONTINUE.

-- I THINK THAT ANY STATE WHICH REALLY SEEKS PEACE AND SECURITY AND HONESTLY RESPECTS PEOPLE'S FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE HAS TO HELP IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER THE ARABS TO GAIN THE ATOMIC BOMB SO THEY CAN CONFRONT THE ZIONIST BOMB.

6. (C) COMMENT:

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